



## **Trade Union inputs on the European Commission's Draft Multiannual Indicative Programme Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (2014-2020)**

*The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN), bringing together national trade union confederations from South and North, Solidarity Support Organisations and Global Union Federations as well as representation from International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Regional Organisations, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC), took note of the above mentioned MIP and puts forward the following comments feeding in the EC consultation:*

### **1. Main Positive Points**

- We welcome the emphasis given to the need to provide tailored support to different categories of CSOs following an **actor based approach** when it comes to enhance CSOs capacity to engage in policy dialogues and policy making at national and sector level (component 1, objective 1, para. 1.1.1);
- We also positively welcome the combination of social and economic ambitions supported by the program, referring **specifically to social partners** (trade union and employers' organisations) in para. 1.1.3 for inclusive and economic growth. In this respect, we strongly suggest to speak about inclusive and sustainable development;
- We support the component 2 of the program aimed at supporting **CSOs networks at global, European and regional level**. Indeed this has been one of the major asks from the trade union movement since the very beginning of the EU Structured Dialogue process, and we welcome the proposed financial increase for 2014-2017 allocations;

### **2. Specific missing and/or controversial Issues**

- As properly expressed in the EC Communication on the role of CSOs in development, **CSOs are recognised as key actors in democracy building**. Consequently this principle should be better reflected also in the 'guiding principles' and rationale of the three components of the program;
- Both the Communication and this MIP refer to the EU Delegations role in ensuring coherence to CSOs support, through the planning of **'Roadmaps' at country level**. These latter should encompass other instruments and programmes (such as geographic and EIDHR). While we recognise the positive approach, it is not clear how the Roadmaps will be drafted/and function in practice. In this sense we would require in general more clarification from the EC, and specifically we recommend these roadmaps to be aimed at

ensuring structured dialogue and strategic cooperation with CSOs, based on an actor mapping at country level;

- We concur with the view of the Commission that it is primarily the responsibility of public authorities to provide social services to their citizens, and that CSOs initiatives in this field should be complementary to and progressively integrated within the national systems. However, we strongly call for **not limiting CSOs support to services delivery only in LDCs**. Support to innovative services brought by CSOs in MICs is equally fundamental to reach out to the most vulnerable part of the population. In this respect, we stress the need to support the specific types of contributions that trade unions and social partners can provide also in MICs, such as in the field of social protection, employment, labour market, migration etc..;
- We welcome the support to promote local entrepreneurship at 1.1.3, and we recall **the role of social enterprises and cooperatives** as models for local job creation, based on participative and democratic governance principles;
- A specific priority of component 1 (para 1.3) is devoted to 'support pilot actions promoting a **territorial approach to development**'. This theme has been largely debated throughout the EU structured dialogue not achieving a common consensus among stakeholders. On this basis **we do not see the added value in putting this as a self-standing theme**, due also to the fact that cooperation between CSOs and LAs is already mainstreamed in the 3 components of the program. While we recognise the importance of partnerships between Local Authorities and Civil Society organisations, these should be built around the objectives of individual development initiatives and therefore should be contextualised;
- Finally, we reiterate the importance given to the **Development Education component**, which deserves increasing in the proposed allocation of resources (particularly in the current economic context of fiscal consolidation). For trade unions this represents a means of strengthening public accountability on national and International/European development commitments, as well as, to raising awareness within public opinion. It is crucial therefore that **trade unions' initiatives in this field can be duly taken into account and supported by the EC** on the basis of their mobilising capacity on specific themes such Decent Work, International Labour Standards, Trade Policies including Supply Chains and International Framework Agreements.

Brussels, November 2012